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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/784,051	02/16/2001	Kazunori Tanaka	Q62945	2539

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SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

PHAM, LEDA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 01/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/784,051

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Leda T. Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to Amendment filed on 10/25/02.
2. Claims 1- 12 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Adachi et al.
(U.S. Patent No. 5,682,070)

Adachi teaches a vehicle-onboard AC generator (figure 20) comprising a stator (figure 1) having a stator core (51) and a stator winding assembly (52) including a plurality of stator windings, a rotor disposed said stator core (figure 20); and a rectifier device (figure 5) for rectifying an AC power from said stator winding assembly, and an intermediate connecting member (175g) distinct from said rectifier device and a circuit board of said AC generator, wherein said intermediate connecting member is disposed on said stator at a position offset laterally from the center axis of the stator, wherein in said stator, a plurality of outgoing conductors forming output conductor end portions and connecting conductor end portions (53, 54), respectively, are brought out substantially in parallel with a center axis of said stator core, wherein said connecting conductor end portions are connected to said intermediate connecting member (175g) said stator windings being interconnected in a predetermined connection pattern

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through said intermediate connecting member, and wherein said output conductor end portions for outputting said AC power is taken out are connected to said rectifier device.

Referring to claim 2, Adachi teaches in figure 7 the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said connecting conductor end portions also form a neutral point output conductor, which is connected to said rectifier device.

Referring to claim 3, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said intermediate connecting member is implemented as a wiring terminal member which is formed of a same copper series metal as a wiring conductor (column 9, lines 20 –25).

Referring to claim 4, column 8 lines 62 – 65 Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said wiring terminal member (171) is molded.

Referring to claim 5, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said wiring terminal member (171) is secured fittingly in a circuit board on which at least said rectifier device is implemented (figure 4).

Referring to claim 6, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said wiring terminal member (171) is welded to an insert terminal member (172 – 175) in advance to be subsequently molded (figure 2 – 3).

Referring to claim 7, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said wiring terminal member is made of a metal plate undergone a surface treatment.

Referring to claim 8, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said wiring terminal member is made of a bare copper wire (column 9, line 11-15).

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Referring to claim 9, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said wiring terminal member is implemented in a structure having an L-shaped cross-section (figure 11).

Referring to claim 10, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said connecting conductor end portions are provided with round terminals, respectively, and wherein connection of said connecting conductor end portions with said intermediate connecting member is realized by means of screws (figure 5).

Referring to claim 11, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein said output conductor end portions are provided with round terminals, respectively, and wherein connection of said output conductor end portions to said rectifier device is realized by means of screws (figure 5, figure 9).

Referring to claim 12, Adachi teaches the vehicle-onboard AC generator wherein each connecting portion of said intermediate connecting member for connection with said connecting conductor end portions is implemented in the form of a U-like segment, and wherein said connecting conductor end portion is fixedly secured to said U-like segment through press fitting (figure 5, figure 6).

Response to Arguments

5. The priority document has been received on 02/16/01 and acknowledged on Form PTO326.
6. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/25/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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7. The arguments are not persuasive because Adachi discloses an intermediate connecting member distinct from rectifier device and circuit board of the AC generator (figure 2, 18, lines 62 – 64, column 8).

8. In response to applicant's argument that Adachi still fails to disclose "an intermediate connecting member distinct from said rectifier device and a circuit board of said AC generator", it is noted that Adachi clearly discloses in lines 62 – 64 of column 8 the rectifier device (17), the circuit board of the AC generator (18), and the intermediate connecting member (172 – 175) being distinct. Furthermore, in figure 18, 17 is a circuit board made of resin while 172a is intermediate connecting member made of metal. Therefore, they are distinct.

9. A signed and initialed copy of the IDS filed on 2/16/01 and the IDS filed on 12/12/01 has been consideration of the references cited.

10. The minor errors causing by the automatic filling in form 892 has been corrected.

11. The object to the Abstract has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leda T. Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-4864. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-5:00) first Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-9176 for regular communications and (703) 305-1341 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3431.

Leda T. Pham
Examiner
Art Unit 2834

LTP
December 30, 2002


NESTOR RAMIREZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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